Merger of Waltair Division

120. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh had proposed to his Ministry for merger of Waltair Division with the South Central Railway with its headquarters at Secunderabad or Vishakhapattanam instead of present headquarters at Bhubaneswar;

(b) if so, the response of his Ministry thereon;

(c) the details of the impediments, if any, in acceding to this proposal; and

(d) by when it is likely to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRl R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The decision to place a particular division under a particular Zone is decided on the basis of operational/administrative needs keeping in view (i) the geographical contiguity of the divisions forming a zone; (ii) smooth movement of traffic operationally; (iii) to provide better control; and (iv) to improve efficiency of the system. The proposal, when examined in the light of the above criteria has not been found feasible.

Railway Division at Kazipeta

121. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the proposal of the Andhra Pradesh Government seeking establishment of a Railway Division at Kazipeta along with existing six divisions of South Central zone;

(b) the reasons for delay in giving clearance to it; and

(c) by when this proposal is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The proposal has been examined in the light of the criteria laid down for the purpose by Railway Reforms Committee and Advisors' Committee and not found feasible.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Creation of new Railway Division

122. SHRI THENNALAG BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have published any notification for any new Railway Division in the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount earmarked for that; and

(d) which are the areas notified for that division?